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A
L E T T E R
TO THE
A U T H O R,
OF THE
North Briton.



(Price One Shilling.)

LETTER

TO THE
AUTHOR

OF THE
North Briton



A
L E T T E R
TO THE A U T H O R
OF THE
North Briton,

IN WHICH
THE LOW SCURRILLITIES,
AND
GLARING FALSHOODS OF THAT PAPER
ARE DETECTED;

Their Tendency toward SEDITION and REBELLION

EXPOSED:

And the Whole illustrated with many curious
ANECDOTES, among which

A STRIKING CHARACTER of LORD BUTE,

AND OF

ARCHIBALD, late Duke of ARGYLE.

BY A NORTH BRITON.

His neighbour cometh afterward and findeth him out.
PROV. OF SOLOMON.

L O N D O N :

Printed for the Author, and Sold by A. HENDERSON, in
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MDCCLXIII.

A
LETTER

TO THE AUTHOR

OF THE

North Briton

IN WHICH

THE LOW COURTESY

AND

GLARING PARADOXES OF THAT PAPER

ARE EXPOSED AND REFUTED

IN A SECOND LETTER

TO THE

And the whole illustrated with many

ANECDOTES and

A STRIKING CHARACTER OF THE

WRITER

BY THE AUTHOR

IN A NORTH BRITON

THE SECOND PART OF THE

LETTER

TO THE AUTHOR





A
L E T T E R

To the A U T H O R of the
North Briton.

S I R,

THough I am among the number of those who think that all national distinctions ought to be laid aside, that national reflections are ungenteel, and in some degree a resisting of power, as diametrically opposite to the letter and spirit of the treaty of union between the two crowns, yet considering the many shoals of personal abuse thrown out against a noble lord, and the many stories raked together from the ashes of oblivion, and rendered hideous through misrepresentation, in order to revive exploded antipathy, which, being unnatural in itself, our forefathers, both Englishmen and Scotsmen, were at such pains to eradicate, I thought it no way unbecoming to trace out a few things, founded upon fact, in order to shew that Englishmen can be mischievous, as well as their neighbours, and should neither libel nor revile.

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No person who looks to a common map, but must own that Scotland and England were ever joined by nature, as in fact they are united by language, custom, habit, religion, and way of living ; in short an Oneness in all its parts.

Before entering upon the disagreeable task of rumaging antiquity for instances of barbarous and savage cruelty, I desire you to remember that my view is directly contrary to yours : my design is to shew, that from divisions a weakness proceeded that frequently threw each of the kingdoms into the most terrible convulsions ; famine, the consequence of neglecting husbandry, generally followed their war, and that nothing but an hearty union could recover that strength, vigour and dignity, which Great Britain is now possessed of.

Was this, Sir, a place for dwelling upon historical accounts, I could shew that the division among the Britons was the greatest enemy that ever visited the country, which however populous before the arrival of Julius Cæsar, yet its story is lost, nor is it at all improbable, but that the different petty sovereigns who were at constant war with each other, destroyed every monument of spirit, conduct or capacity that had been found in the people subdued by the doubtful fortune of war : for we do not find that the Dictator met with any written tracts, or that he had any other information except from the prisoners themselves, or from the traitors that passed into France, and gave him encouragement to come over to these parts.

I take for granted, that the country called by him Britannia, was divided into a number of
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of petty sovereignties, and that the different potentates were at war with each other, which, according to the expression used by the Dictator, and to the spirit of the times, was carried on with a fierceness and brutality which all civilized nations now disclaim and abhor. No less than four kings were in Kent, possibly as many in other counties, who all united against the Romans, under Cassivelaun, the king of Essex, in order to oppose the common calamity.

It is not my province to trace out from which of these petty sovereigns you are descended; I know not; one thing I know, that the assistance given by the Scots nation against the Romans, brought the arms of the latter into North-Britain; and that notwithstanding the Romans were expelled, yet it was not without trouble, bloodshed, and all the miseries attending upon war.

Nor is it less true, that our connection with South-Britain was the cause of the war with the settlers in England after their own natives were expelled, and that the Germans got possession of the country; and tho' the arrival of the Saxons be one of the periods which every Englishman ought to wish was drowned in perpetual oblivion, yet I am obliged here to represent the occasion of it, that so the mistakes and misrepresentations you have published about the matter may be rectified.

You will be pleased to know, that the case was this: About the year 473, one Vortigern, a chieftain among the Britons, used all possible means to fix the crown of Britain upon his own head; for this purpose he studied

all the arts of popularity ; and taking Constantine, the son of Constantine, the late king, from a religious house to which he had been confined, on account of his weakness and incapacity, he made him king, hoping by this step to arrive one day at regal power, and in the mean time to manage every thing at his pleasure : and to colour his design he procured from the kings of the Scots and Picts a guard of 100 men, constantly to attend upon his sovereign's person. Having amassed great treasure, and made a strong party about court, he tampered with two of the guard to murder the king, promising them protection, and the highest preferment, after the fact was perpetrated. Perhaps two private men of a guard might not be possessed of a becoming resolution to resist the proposals of a powerful minister : one thing is certain, he did not trust them with the parricide, he became the actor himself : he watched his opportunity, and calling to him some attendants, he hastily rushed one night into the king's bed-chamber, and stabbed both him and the two men he had been dealing with, lest these should afterward bear testimony against him : this being over, he laid the whole blame of the king's murder upon the Scots and Picts, who, he said, intended to enslave his countrymen ; and in a speech full of flattery, he concluded with advising them, not to make Ambrose, the son of Constantine, king, but some person of great ability, and love to the commonwealth : whereupon all the people cried out, " None shall be king but Vortigern." Accordingly he was made king, and directly caused
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all the friends and lineage of Constantine to be slain ; only Ambrose and Uter, the two sons of Constantine, escaped into Flintshire, where they were kept privately by their foster-fathers, till a convenient time for transporting them into Britany.

The kings of the Scots and Picts hearing the treachery of Vortigern to his own sovereign, who was connected in blood with themselves, as also of the odium thrown upon them and upon their subjects, they marched an army into Britain, in order to reinstate the expelled prince, and to vindicate their own honour. The usurper had the address to persuade the people of Wales, that this army was intended to erase them from off the face of the earth : the inhabitants of these remote parts too hastily believing the representation, mustered up an army, which encountering with the Scots and Picts, were totally defeated, twenty thousand of them were cut in pieces with Guiteline, their leader, who at that time was king of the country. A total defection from Vortigern soon followed : the inhabitants of that part now called England, deserted him, and the Welch abandoned his standards ; so that being left to himself, and a fugitive, he thought proper to apply to the Saxons for assistance, not against the Scots, but against his own countrymen, whose eyes were now opened, and whom he had so grossly abused.

At that time Horfa, an ambitious prince, and a soldier of fortune, readily agreed to the proposal, and soon landed in England with ten thousand men, in support of the tyrant's usurpation : the event is well known ;
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the Britons were defeated, and the Germans, incited by the pleasantness of this country, and barrenness of their own, practised every method for obtaining a settlement; they subdued the natives, suppressed religion, and parted the realm among themselves; the effeminacy and voluptuousness of a tyrant, weighed down with blood, and the weakness of the inhabitants, were sufficient for bringing his purpose to bear, yet he chose rather to accomplish his end, under colour of friendship and affection: for this purpose, he invited Vortigern to a solemn banquet, and plying him well with pots, according to the German manner of drinking at that time, he let pass before him a fair damsel, his own daughter, called Roxena, or Rouen, who being instructed how to behave herself, did, with all the courtesy and politeness of her sex, present him with a goblet of wine, saying, in his own language, Be merry, lord king. Her attitude and behaviour captivated the heart of Vortigern, who not only vouchsafed to pledge her, but desired also to perform it after the manner of her own country; and so desired her "to drink haile, [or merrily;]" which, when she had done, he himself took the cup, and pledged her so heartily, that from henceforth he could find no rest until he had married her, by which deed of wedding an heathen, he entailed the wrath of God and of man upon himself, his subjects, and all their posterity.

At this juncture Hengist begged of the apostate the territories of Kent, Essex, Middlesex, and Suffolk, as an habitation for the Ger-

Germans, who, he said, would be ready at hand to curb any insurrection in favour of Ambrose, a favourite then of the people, and whom they were preparing to set upon the throne. The words of Hengist, and the charms of Roxena, could do every thing: the request was granted; the Saxons, the Jutes and the Angles, arrived in multitudes, and in a short time overspread the whole country.

Shortly after the arrival of these, the Britons perceiving that Vortigern was alienated from them, and sided with his enemies, they elected his son Vortimer for their leader, and under his command marched to Aylesford, in Kent, where a desperate battle was fought between them, in which Horsa, the leader of the Saxons, was killed with the bulk of his army, and Catigern, king Vortimer's brother, fell, with a prodigious multitude of his forces: it is true the Saxons were driven into the island of Thanet, and even compelled to retreat toward their native country, where, learning that the British general was slain, and that nothing but anarchy and confusion prevailed in the British councils, they again set sail with a supply of troops and provisions, and again took possession of what they had so lately abandoned. So long as any body of the Britons kept together, the Scots joined in their support, and fought several battles, in which they generally prevailed; however, the Saxons had this advantage, that the Scots being obliged to return to their own habitations for the sake of cultivating the ground, which gave them an opportunity of attacking the Britons, who, when left to themselves, fell
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easy prey to to an exulting and cruel enemy ; so that all being in vain, the Saxons carried it, and their princes ascended the throne : foreigners were only encouraged ; the natives, who by this time had followed the example of their prince, and married the daughters of heathens, were driven beyond the Severn into Wales, and beyond the Tweed into Scotland, where they were hospitably received, and many of their descendants are still inhabitants there.

The inhabitants of Wales, and of Scotland, have been remarkable for hospitality, whereas till the time of the union of the crowns, that part of Britain, now called England, was distinguished by the contrary character : the lyric poet calls them cruel to strangers * ; the Saxons were no less savage and inhumane, nor were the Danes better for the time they reigned.

But why should I trouble either you or myself with stories that can only revive an exploded antipathy : you know that the Saxons were no less fierce and cruel, but yet more cunning than those whom they expelled ; the intruding Danes, whose wrath was raised against the Scots, on account of the aid given by these to their southern neighbours, were driven out of Scotland by the intrepidity, valour, and resolution of the inhabitants, whereas in England they were expelled by a stratagem : the sons of violence who wasted France and England at one and the same time, and who in the course of one hundred and forty years, had sacked the city of Rome four several times, and who, for

* ——— Britannos hospitibus feros, *Hor.*

the space of three hundred years had rendered England a scene of blood, slaughter, and rapine, were defeated by Scottish bravery, but butchered by English contrivance. The memorable night of the 10th of Nov, 1012, will be a lasting monument of English secrecy, not to be paralleled in any country.

King Ethelred being reduced to despair, did, by the advice of Horfa, the general of his forces, write letters to each part of the realm, commanding, that upon St. Bride's day, which was the morrow after St. Martin's night, the Englishmen should all at once set upon the Danes before they had digested the surfeit of that drunken solemnity, and so utterly kill and destroy them. This command was received so chearfully, entertained with such secrecy, and executed with such celerity, that the Danes were suddenly, both men, women and children, almost extirpated; however some few escaped, and brought over a new supply of forces, who, taking arms, routed and conquered the unhappy natives over whom they tyrannized, till driven out by Scotch auxiliaries.

However you may evade the force of these representations, which can better be defended than impugned, yet one thing is certain, that the Britons, the Saxons and Danes, promiscuously inhabited this country; and whether you be of a Danish or Saxon pedigree, you will not have reason to avail yourself of this circumstance at the hand of any Briton, since both Danes and Saxons were equally cruel, designing and rapacious: if you, or any connected in your scheme, be of a British extraction,

tion, you must own a tribute of gratitude to be due to the Scots, who were so frequently involved in wars, for support of the very being of Britain, as a kingdom and people.

I must own, that the English records before the Norman conquest are not so much to be depended on as the annals that have appeared since ; and therefore I think it will not be improper to refresh your memory with some of the many actions that loudly call for gratitude from every Englishman who is not deaf to remonstrances, and to every generous return. You know, or at least you ought to know, that after the battle of Hastings, October 14th, 1066, in which 69,000 Englishmen were killed with their king and his two brothers, the conqueror used every art which craft, subtlety, avarice, or antipathy, could devise, to extirpate the inhabitants ; their only place of refuge was Scotland. Did not Edgar Atheling, the heir to the crown, fly thither with his mother, and his two sisters ? Did not a numerous tribe of noblemen and gentlemen follow his fortune ? Did not multitudes upon multitudes crowd to the asylum of their prince, whose sister was betrothed to the king of the country ? Did ever man behave with more sympathy and goodness of heart toward the unfortunate, than did Malcolm king of Scotland to these forlorn and destitute refugees ? And did not his compassionate tenderness and conduct, draw the fury and resentment of the tyrant, who sent an herald with letters requisitorial, demanding that the rebels, as he was pleased to call them, might be delivered up : his promises and threat-

threatnings were equally despised; which raised the wrath of the conqueror so much, that he sent an army to enforce his demands. Roger, a nobleman of Normandy, marched at the head of the first army, which was cut in pieces by the Scots forces; and he himself was killed by the shattered remains; a second, but more numerous army, commanded by Richard earl of Gloucester, met with the same fate. Odo, bishop of Bayeux, and earl of Kent, the king's own brother, after wasting Northumberland, was attacked by Malcolm, and by the English refugees, as he was returning home, where his whole army was routed, with a mighty slaughter, and many of them were taken prisoners: nor had he himself, with Robert, his son, any better fortune: marched indeed to Newcastle, nigh which place the Scots army was advanced, and thought proper, without risking an engagement, to encamp opposite to that commanded by Malcolm. The two leaders were men of experience, years, and full of intrepidity: the English monarch was famous for his valour, but detested for his rapine and barbarity, the Scottish king was no less remarkable for his resolution, but beloved by all mankind for his compassion and humanity: the former sent a personal challenge to Harold, but did not think proper to trouble the king of Scotland with a message of that kind: as the camps were near, frequent skirmishes happened between the out-parties, which convinced William that his Normans were not invincible, and Malcolm, tho' full of fire, and of a rational courage, was yet, from the ex-

ample of Harold's obstinacy, kept many times from storming the camp of the enemy. In this situation the armies continued for several days, when people of wisdom and moderation among them coming to a conference, a truce was agreed on that terminated the war.

The articles were too advantageous to be forgotten, especially as the remembrance of them cannot fail of raising gratitude in the breast of every humane Englishman.

The forest of Stanmore was to be the boundary of the two kingdoms.

Cumberland should be yielded to Malcolm, who was to hold it of the English crown; Edgar Atheling was to be restored to his great estates, and to his dignity.

All such as had fled into Scotland, were to be received under William's protection, and to have the peaceable possession of their lands and effects in common with the best and most loyal subjects.

William's title to the throne of England should be acknowledged by Malcolm, and each of the armies was, upon signing the articles, to march off unmolested.

Here, Sir, I hope you will readily own, that favours like these called for some returns of gratitude, especially if it be considered, that the offspring of William the Norman, endeavoured often not only to destroy the kings, but likewise the kingdom of Scotland, over which, when, by the doubtful fortune of war, they attained any success, they tyrannized with an unparalleled brutality.

For William Rufus, an impious prince, no sooner succeeded his father, than forgetting the terms entered into with the king of Scotland, he

He raised an army which he sent into Northumberland; in order to drive the Scots out of it. As there were but few to oppose them, they were at first successful, and exercised all the horrors of war, which Malcolm being informed of, he raised some troops, with which he marched against the enemy, came up with them at Wooller, and gave them a total defeat: the places of strength were soon recovered except Alnwick, of which one Mowbray, a Norman, was made governor: the Scots army sat down before it, and Mowbray proposed to surrender the place; the terms were accepted; and the generosity of Malcolm promising more than any stipulations, it was agreed to deliver the keys into the king's own hand, if he would be pleased to come to the outer gate, and receive them: the hero, not harbouring the remotest suspicion of any diabolical fraud, went with his son prince Edward, in order to receive the keys, according to agreement: the king was on the one side, and Mowbray on the other, which last stretched forth the keys on the point of a spear, which he instantly run into the king's eye, and killed him on the spot: I assure you, sir, that I have no pleasure in ripping up such tragical stories, but what can be said to people who are bent upon calumny, and who have, to the utmost of their opportunity, endeavoured by fabricated forgeries, which never existed in history, to blacken a minister, a whole nation and name.

I know, sir, that some modern historians, among whom Dr. Smollet, have represented the king of Scotland's march into England to have

have been of the most pernicious nature : the deliverer of Edgar Atheling, and of the many refugees that attended their prince, is said to have burnt churches, towns, and villages, and to have butchered, without distinction of age or sex, " all such miserable wretches as were unfit objects of his slavery."

In this particular, I must differ from the doctor, who has been led into this mistake by Walter Hemingsford, a monk, one whose history is full of fable, romance, and hyperbolic miracles, not to say monkish contradictions and lies : that very author has assured us, that the conqueror laid the whole north country waste, and that neither house nor hut, church nor chapel, man woman or child, were to be seen in these places, long before the arrival of Malcolm, whose love to Northumberland was almost innate, it being his mother's country, whose gratitude to Edward the Confessor, and whose own inclination, would never suffer him to put any hardships upon the innocent, and the tenour of his actions discovered the piety and nobleness of his mind : Did not he found the abbey of Dumferling in Scotland, and of Durham in England, both which he very amply and munificently endowed?

How treacherously did king Henry II. deal with William king of Scotland, a prince who received from the Pope the title of Defender of the Faith, Anno 1199 : under pretence of carrying him on a party of pleasure to Normandy, did the faithless man oblige the stranger to do homage to him at Canterbury for the independant crown which he wore ; a deed null and void in itself, and shocking to every person who

who regards hospitality and good faith, but still more scandalous to such as abett and colour over such fraudulent actions.

And how did Edward I. act toward the king and kingdom of Scotland ! With a fraud and brutality of which there is scarce a parallel in history did this ambitious prince exercise a savage authority which wickedness itself might be defied to exceed or go beyond : how did the plenipotentiaries commissioned by Edward to treat of a truce with some Scots commissioners at Aire, to which the nobles and gentlemen of the land were invited : no sooner were they entered into the door, which they were told led into the chamber of conference, than a rope caught hold of them by the neck, and they were strangled instantly ; no less than 360 persons suffered in this impious manner before the fraud was detected, and after these were dead, the house with the dead bodies was reduced to ashes, that no vestige should remain of the villainy.

The whole of this prince's conduct was one continued scene of inhumanity : were not burnings frequent in his time ? Houses, churches, temples and tombs, were consumed by his order ; and how basely did he act toward the Guardian of Scotland, a man who was not his subject, who was his avowed foe, and who, by the laws of war, was entitled to all the articles of a cartel ! How was the Guardian's wife and sister destroyed by Hefalrig a lieutenant, at the command of the monstrous man, and yet so generous was he, that when the queen of England was in his power, he would do no violence either to her person, or to her dignity : the
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story is too singular to be passed over, and tho' it be not taken notice of by many of the English historians, yet I take it to be authentic, as it is recorded by Mr. Blair, the Guardian's chaplain, who was an eye-witness thereof.

The Guardian willing to remove the war out of Scotland, marched into England, in order to fight king Edward, who had plighted his faith once, to give him battle, but had twice broke his word, and the Scots army had advanced as far as the Avon, near St. Albans, in their way to London; where no doubt things were in an uproar and confusion, on account of the approach of an enemy, whom the English troops did not desire to encounter: no enemy durst look him in the face, and no plenipotentiary advance to meet him, on account of the many murders committed upon the innocent. At last the queen of England desired leave to wait upon the Guardian: the necessity of affairs compelled the monarch to comply. She set out, accompanied with fifty ladies, some of them widows, and some of them nuns; and with these were seven priests clothed in white, and venerable for age and experience: the first night she lodged at a priory, five miles from Barnet, and next morning was observed about ten o'clock to advance toward the Scots army, then on their march to London: she approached with a becoming attitude, and was first received by the earl of Lennox, who conducted her to the Guardian, before whom she kneeled as a suppliant, but he instantly caught her up in his arms, and saluted her; never forgetting the dignity of her person, and the situation wherein

wherein he was placed ; he welcomed her to the pavilion, which was erected instantly for her reception ; and desiring, with an air of complacency to know the design of her arrival among them, she frankly told him, that her coming was intended to obtain a peace between the two kingdoms.

After giving the strictest charge to the soldiers, not to meddle with those in the retinue of the queen, he conducted her into a tent, where an entertainmant was prepared : with a generous deportment she sat down to the banquet, and dined without affectation or reserve ; then ordered such things as she had carried along with her to be brought into the tent. A reluctance was visible among some, who did not even scruple to insinuate, that poison was intermixed therewith ; but this objection she removed, by tasting of every thing. This being over, she entered upon the business for which she was come, and desired peace in the name of God, and of his son Christ Jesus. She told him, that they were all Christians, that the end of all wars was peace ; and the war, that had continued for some years, had been both fierce and terrible : the Guardian heard her with a becoming attention, and thus laid open a scene of villainy which the princess seemed to be ignorant of ; and, after some reasoning, he addressed her in the following terms :

Madam,

The greatness of your birth, the brilliance of your crown, but, above all, your distinguishing virtues, command a respect from those

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who approach your royal presence, which shall never be denied by me, tho' now engaged in a war with your husband, whose actions, during the course of it, I dare say, are to you unknown.

After the male line of the kings of Scotland was extirpated by the death of Alexander III. the kingdom was without a sovereign for three years, when the competitors claimed the crown as their birth-right ; and making your royal husband umpire, he silyly got possession of the strongest places and forts in that kingdom, and took the sovereignty into his own hand ; and, to colour over the action, he made a man king contrary to the fundamental laws of the realm, and in opposition to the general voice of the states and inhabitants. The surrendering of the crown was taken off by the Roman Pontiff, who yet could not foresee the cunning of the king of England : for never losing sight of the favourite object of inthral-ling Scotland, a kingdom that existed in its force, when it was partitioned into many sovereignties, he entered into a contract with Robert Bruce, earl of Carrick, whose pretensions to the throne he engaged to support ; by this means he rendered Scotland a field of blood ; and when Bruce required the kingdom, according to agreement, your sovereign and husband only laughed him to scorn : he claimed the crown to himself, slew the elders and nobles of the land : I myself was confined to a prison, out of which the goodness of the God of heaven could only set me free : I was thrown from a wall to rot above ground, but having the good fortune to fall upon

upon a plot of soft earth, and to be carried away to a place of safe retreat, by a poor woman of sympathy and compassion, I recovered my strength, but yet had still greater losses to encounter. Some time after this escape, I set my affection upon a lady of the finest wit, and the rarest accomplishments, and by her had two daughters, the pledges of our love! O how happy had it been for her, and for me, never to have seen, or loved each other! [at these words he shed tears] she suffered on account of me; for a traitor knight, one Hefilrig, ordered her to be strangled in a tower: my father and brother were sacrificed to the like cruel orders, which enraged not only myself, but all who ever heard of the barbarity; and when the assertors of the rights of Scotland had so far prevailed as to drive the English forces back into their own country, a truce was desired on the part of your king, and was granted: the meeting of the commissioners to settle matters was appointed at Air; the Englishmen were first at the place, and there they cruelly and subtly hanged no less than 360 of the best, and most opulent in the nation; people who had ensigns to shew of their power, and whose armorial bearings bore testimony to the resolution and virtues of their ancestors. Men and women promiscuously fell by their devouring hands. What pity can I shew to the committers of such inhuman violence? Your majesty, as a woman, will feel for your sex, as a native of France, for the inhabitants of Scotland, and as a queen of England, for the barbarities committed by your king's subjects, who hither-

to have wantonly been glutting themselves in blood and in slaughter.

This being over, she endeavoured to purchase a peace with the price of 3000l. which she had brought with her, but this the Guardian refused. “ I, madam, said he, need not take
 “ any money from you, since the riches of
 “ England are almost wholly in my power,
 “ and besides, your royal husband will think
 “ himself no way bound to what may be
 “ agreed upon between your majesty and me :
 “ however, that you may not lose your travel, my army shall halt here for twenty-
 “ four hours, till an answer arrive from king
 “ Edward to the articles that shall be sent him ;
 “ peace or war, is in his own choice, and in
 “ the meantime your majesty is at full liberty
 “ to retire when you please.”

This being settled, she parted from the Guardian, in the most becoming and princely manner, and before setting out, ordered the money which was designed for bribing him, to be distributed among his forces and guards : the night she left St. Albans, she arrived at the priory, where she lay, and next morning hastened to Westminster, where the king and council were already assembled in the hall, to consult upon what was proper to be done at that important crisis : suddenly the whole assembly was agreeably surprised with the return of the queen, who, like the queen of Sheba, was wrapt up in admiration of the Guardian of Scotland, and spoke of him as an hero, a patriot and a Christian : the articles of peace were laid before Edward, who signed them with seeming reluctance, but with a real satisfaction ;

faction; and by these he renounced all manner of pretension to the sovereignty of Scotland, and in token of this disclaiming being sincere, he surrendered every fort and place of strength which he retained in that kingdom; but no sooner did the least favourable opportunity offer, when he again invaded the country with a numerous army, and acted the barbarian wherever he came.

With what horror must every unprejudiced person reflect on the tyrant's conduct toward the Guardian himself, who having been betrayed into his hands, was tried as his subject, which was equally impious as for his Majesty King GEORGE to try one of the French prisoners for treason. Happy, indeed, for England, that the trial of the Guardian is not to be met with, or perhaps the scene would have appeared blacker than it does now, notwithstanding all its ugliness of deformity, and the inhuman visage which it wears: the silence of the English historians about the method of his trial, is to me a proof of the infernal manner in which it was conducted.

Methinks I see the hero passing from Fenchurch-street, the first place where he was lodged, towards Westminster-hall, amidst the mockings and cruel insults of an enraged multitude! Methinks I see him in a dishabille carried before the partial tribunal, with his face masked, lest his serene and majestic features should excite compassion, and rekindle the extinguished sparks of humanity! Methinks I see the guards fixed, that no Scotsman might enter into the hall, to witness his treatment, and to report his behaviour to those who admired him, loved him

him, and lost him ! Methinks I see the godlike man, seated in the midst of his enemies, and, as he began his defence, to have his mouth gagg'd and a hoarse laughter raised by a crowd of buffoons ! Methinks I see him returning from the infamous tribunal, and as he passed through the hall, to be spit upon, mocked, and buffeted, by a crowd of wretches, through whom he would have cut his way, had he not been bound with excruciating thongs ! Methinks I see the deliverer of his country stepping out of the Savoy with his head uncovered, but his face and body veiled, and the cruel multitude, as he passed along, exulting in his misfortunes ; and, what is still worse, the savage enemy loading him with reproaches and lies ! How was the cruel sentence put in execution in all its extent, his limbs, his head, and his arms, set up in the most publick places of resort through the kingdom ?

And with what inhumanity and falshood did both Edward I. and II. behave toward the brothers, the sisters, nay and the spouse of Robert Bruce, a prince whose heroic actions yielded to none that ever were performed by any king who swayed a sceptre ? His brothers were executed as traitors, his sister was inclosed in a wooden cage, and hung over the wall of Roxburgh castle, and his spouse was detained prisoner for eight years, and afterward exchanged for the earl of H——t, who had been taken prisoner at the terrible battle of Bannockburn, where the finest army that England ever saw was cut in pieces by the Scots forces, who yet used the prisoners with tenderness, notwithstanding that when any of their nobles fell in-

to the hands of the English they were executed wantonly, and neither age nor sex was spared : Nor did Edward III. yield to his father or grandfather, in point of a wanton brutality ; for when, by the doubtful fortune of war, the governor of Berwick's two sons were taken prisoners, did he not cause the two young gentlemen to be hanged up in sight of the garrison, because their father did not surrender up the fort into his hands ?

Instances like these are no less disagreeable than rare, and yet the subject leads to rehearse them ; nor can we doubt but that the English court sowed the divisions which raised a civil war in the kingdom, and destroyed churches, temples, and burial-places, during the reign of the five James's. Every one knows with what care and industry divisions and misunderstandings were raised and fomented in Scotland during the reign of the unfortunate queen Mary, who after flying into England for refuge, was tried upon an act of parliament made on purpose to ruin her ; the pretended cause was the safety of queen Elizabeth, whereas the true reason was, she had no English servants about her, the Scots and French resorted too frequently to Fotheringham, where they had presents from their royal mistress, and were maintained at her charge.

And how was her grandson king Charles the First abused ! You have been pleased to aver, in one of your NORTH BRITONS, that he was sold by the Scots for four-pence, and his whole misfortunes were attributed to them : O malicious lye ! O ignorance of the transactions of the times ! It is notorious that his English parliament
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and he were at variance ten years, before the Scots took up a sword in defence of themselves, or liberty. We, sir, deny the charge: the Scots army, though then in the pay of the English parliament, refused to march from Newcastle into Scotland, until security was given that his majesty's person should be safe: but supposing the king to have been sold for an orange, pray who bought him? Who gave the orange; or, if you will, Who paid the four-pence? Who maintained the army, to which he fled at an untimely season? Or, if the Scots did sell him, was it to have him executed to death? Now, dear sir, who were his judges? Who were his accusers? Who were the witnesses to make good the charge? Were not all these Englishmen? Did not the church and parliament of Scotland remonstrate against any violence being done to his person? And did not their commissioners enforce the remonstrance with all their address and ability, but in vain? King Charles the First was a Scotsman, his death was determined, and nothing but his blood could satiate an enraged multitude. But really, sir, I never could see the mighty advantage derived to Scotland above what accrued to England from the union of the crowns, nor was the former so despicable as you would represent, before that period; their fisheries rendered them respectable, and the bravery of their troops procured them love and esteem wherever they were brought to action.

However surprised you may be, yet it is certainly true, that there are more families of note in Scotland from an English extraction, than in England from a Scottish line: The whole
family

family of Hamiltoun is of an English origin, and is now possessed of the finest part of the country; Are not the Gordons the same, with the Lindseys, Ramsays, Barclays, Prestons, Greys, Johnstons? Nay it is a question if the numerous spawn of surnames, ending in *son*, were not of a British extraction; nor is it at all improbable, but that Walter Stewart, the stock and father of the Scots kings, brought many of these with him from Wales, when he repaired to Scotland with Nersta his spouse, who was the daughter of Griffith, prince of that country.

To write or speak ironically of either nation, is, in my opinion, contrary to law, and diametrically opposite to the spirit and articles of Union, by which the act of settlement is secured in the present royal family; a transgression of so solemn and advantageous a treaty, was no less a crime, than that of a trespass against an act of parliament, on which many have suffered at Tyburn, and elsewhere. By the very first article, the names of English and Scots cease, and that of British supply their room: are they not considered as one people, and made such by law? Why then animosities and divisions? Have not the best and most lucrative offices in North Britain been conferred on South Britons! these having principal places in the Exchequer and Excise, without any noise or murmuring? Believe me nothing of this was the cause of the rebellions with which the Scots nation in general is so undeservedly stigmatized; a rebellion, which however odious in itself, yet was far from being the deed of the nation, or yet from being

so criminal as every one would represent it, with regard to the generality of those concerned therein; for it is no new thing to see people devoted to the fate of their chiefs and their superiors: three-fourths of those concerned in it, knew not our language, and were ignorant of what they were about, so that it is not entirely generous to attribute the fault of some who live in the extream parts of the united kingdom, to the whole body of the nation, who are no more connected with them, than with the inhabitants of Cornwall or Devonshire.

I believe it will not be denied, but some Scotsmen, I mean people born before the Union, deserved well of the English nation; for, not to dwell upon persons and names, I shall only mention the earl of Stair and the earl of Crawford; the former of whom not only did the greatest services in the cabinet, but once saved a British army in the field: and I have heard it observed by Englishmen of the coolest passions, and best understanding, that the 6th day of June, 1743, ought as much to be observed as the 5th of November itself: and have not the Scots had a considerable share in our late important conquests? Why then a shoal of abuse against one man, and from him intended to the whole nation, because he filled a principal office under a grateful and an indulgent king?

By the treaty of Union, by nature, and indeed by interest, every single person within the island of Britain, are equally protected by the laws; and, without any distinctions, except what arise from merit, ought to share the smiles
and

and indulgence of their sovereign. A man born at the Lands-end of England, which is no nearer London than many places in the South of Scotland, is no less to be regarded as a subject, than if he drew his first breath in Pall-mall, or in St. James's Square. And here I should be glad to know what native of Scotland has enjoyed a civil office in England of any consequence, until this very time ! They have indeed enjoyed military employments, but there is no more in this, than in the king of Prussia's employing marshal Keith, or the queen of Hungary employing marshal Brown : all for their own interest.

But what has lord Bute done to deserve such uncommon persecution ? To be branded with the most odious names ; to be compared to the earl of Mortimer, between whom and him there is this material difference, the accusers themselves being judges, that the one was an Englishman, and the other a Scot. Why not compare him to Gaveston, to the Spencers ; to bishop Gardner, to cardinal Wolsey, or to bishop Bonner ; for I believe it will be hard to find a good minister in the English annals ? The reason is plain, they wanted to wound the reputation of a princess adorned with all the virtues of her sex ; and one who, I dare say, never gave any occasion for reproach and calumny ; and it is cruel to give innuendos where there is no shadow of foundation, but where every circumstance tends to discredit the falsehood, and to refute the opprobrious tale.

But what has not lord Bute done that could be done for the safety and honour of this

country ? has any plan which he schemed, proved abortive ? Has not success attended every enterprise ? The Havannah in the West Indies, and Manila in the East, have fallen under his auspicious direction. Peace, the best and most valuable jewel that ever attended a people, has been procured : the vacancies that happened have been filled up with men of ability and candour, if such flowers are to be reaped on English ground. There were no executions in his house : no unaccountable waste to the ruin of the tradesman, the grazier, and even of vast and immense estates. Every Monday morning the different tradesmen were punctually paid their bills : his ears were always open to the cries of the poor, and to families in distress, of every nation, of every country, and of every religion : nay, his charity was remarkable even when in private life, and before possessing the immense fortune which now he so deservedly enjoys.

And here, Sir, I beg leave to inform you, that the place of treasurer rather wanted him than he wanted the place. The confusion into which the treasury had fallen, through means of former management, was the reason, nay the prevailing motive, for undertaking an arduous and laborious task, to the neglect of his own coal-mines, and his other private business : he was an intimate and favourite with the king's father ! The princess dowager deservedly respected him as a nobleman of candour and veracity, one who had a good advice to give, and a striking example to set before her son, to whom he had been a father and a guardian. The regularity

larity of his private life was no less commendable : every night did he retire to his closet at eleven, every morning was he out of bed at six ; there was plenty at his table, but no profusion ; every day was he unwearied and diligent in discharging the trust reposed in him, notwithstanding the infamous load of calumny with which he was bespattered, and the glaring forgeries hatched to defame him ; and not only him, but the place of his nativity. Have not people of whom better things might have been expected, run mad through keenness in prosecuting the opprobrious theme ? However, his enemies have been ridiculous, and now it appears clearly, that as no peace could be obtained, though ever so advantageous, without raising murmurs or discontent, so the enemies of lord Bute wanted to fix him in a station wherein the whole of the blame would fall upon him.

You know, sir, that the Edwards, the Henrys, and the Richards, had a great many children by different women ; and, perhaps, sir, you are a descendant of the royal family ; your vindictive spirit is one circumstance favouring the conjecture that you may be sprung from that revengeful sett of men, for kings are only flesh and blood like other men ; the partiality to the place of your birth is another circumstance, and has made you muster up a long string of arguments against lord Bute, for preferring two or three of his countrymen to two small places, viz. Mr. Hume and Malloch ; — O mighty crime, because two Englishmen could have enjoyed them ! But, sir, be pleased to know, that one of Hume's grandmothers was an Englishwoman, and you know that your own grandmother is a Scotswoman. One

One of your NORTH BRITONS has taken great notice of Mr. Elliot's son having obtained a commission, before he was of age, but not a word of the many commissions given to noblemen and gentlemen's sons born in England, where it is such a nuisance, that there is still room for exhibiting the print, Anno 1733 ; in which a lusty stout masculine grenadier is represented leading a slender sickly boy, whose legs are emaciated by apothecary's stuff, and the doctor's prescriptions ; and underneath,

His mamma and lady Betty, have bought a Commission for master Jacky.

But why enter I into altercations with men void of the first principles of candour, and destitute of truth, which is the ornament of society ? If you are disposed to reap up old stories, that ought in policy and good sense to be forever drowned in oblivion, there are not two counties in England which might not be enflamed ; for I should be glad to learn where that county lyes which was not, at some time or other, at variance with that in its neighbourhood : when the Roman dictator landed here, the whole kingdom was divided among a number of petty sovereigns, no less than four kings were in Kent, and all these joined together, under Cassibalan, the king of Essex, to resist the common enemy ; now, sir, I should be glad to know from which of these petty sovereignties you are descended ? Are you of a Roman descent, for there were many surnames in ancient Rome that now exist in England, such as *Lepidus*, Blyth, *Cochlearis*, Wilkes, *Fulvius*, contracted, Red, and *Lentulus*, Onslow : are you of a
Saxon,

Saxon, or of a Danish breed? Or are you Nobody, a person dropt from the clouds, to revive the iron age a-new?

I have long been of opinion that the kingdom of Scotland, when disunited, was not so despicable as every one would represent it: for though it be undeniable that England is every way preferable in point of soil, richness of ground, and goodness of country, yet 'tis equally true that the Scots fisheries might be made infinitely preferable to those on the coast of England; peruse the English history, and you will find that the Scots fleet has oftner than once beat the English navy; their seamen were hardier, and more inured to the watery element; for, before the erection of the united provinces into a republic, the whole states of Flanders and Brabant were supplied with herrings and white fish from the coast of Scotland, and had not our unhappy connections with England set some of the northern boroughs upon the fatal resolution of selling no fish to strangers, except at the markets, and within the towns, our fisheries had at this time been so compleat, as to make up for the sterility of the ground, when compared with the English.

But why insist any further with men bent upon promoting strife, and laden with the bowels of dissention? Or why conjecture at the indignities thrown upon a prisoner at the distance of four or five hundred years, when people can be allowed to talk unbecomingly before a court of justice, without so much as being checked for their insolence? Has not J. WILKES declared, that he was worse used than if he had been a Scotch rebel? just as if there

there never had been rebellions in England ; whereas the whole English annals are full of nothing but rebellions and conspiracies against the Williams, the Edwards, the Henrys, and Richards ; and more people have suffered for the laws and liberties of England, than for all the laws and liberties of the known world : not to mention any other reign but that of queen Elifabeth, by far the most glorious in the English annals, has not the same been stained with conspiracies, and bedaubed with blood ? And has not the city of London been the ring-leader, or at least the abettor of every insurrection ? And I truly think, that an English rebel ought to have no more mercy shewn him, than a Scots rebel, nay, less ; for the nearer any person is to the auspicious influences of the royal eye, the more criminal and inexcusable to rise up against him.

The rebellions in Scotland against their kings, have been much fewer than in England against theirs : and here I cannot but observe, that some rebellions in England have been unparalleled. I am an enemy to all insurrections, but indeed the crime of rising in arms to pull down one man, in order to set up another, is not so criminal as that of rising up in arms against all power, all authority, and every office for the regulation and happiness of society. Did ever an hundred thousand men take arms upon such an intent, except in England ? and yet these can talk of Scots rebels.

The rebellions which happened since the accession of the present royal family, were, I will grant you, unprovoked on the part
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of the king ; nor can the English justify themselves from having a share in them : and to Scotsmen was owing the extinguishing of these insurrections ; for did not the militia of the different counties muster up under their respective lords, and superiors, except some few places, where the bulk of the rebels sprung ? And it is observable, that two-thirds of their whole corps were from the isles, and extream parts of the kingdom, people blindly devoted to their chiefs and superiors, and strangers to the English tongue, even in the Scots dialect ; a circumstance of alleviation, that cannot be applied to any English rebel. Did not the dukes of Douglas and Roxburgh, the earls of Rothes, Loudon, Haddington, and Leven, charge at the head of the cavalry, at the action at Dumblain ? Was not John duke of Argyle, the uncle to the present earl of Bute, commander in chief on that ever-memorable day ? Were not his vassals in arms for the government ? His brother, the earl of Islay, received two wounds ; and Archibald Douglas, earl of Forfar, received twenty-two.

The behaviour of Forfar, and his death at Sherrifmuir, are as remarkable as that of the prince of Conde, at Jarnac, or even that of Gustavus Adolphus, on the plains of Lutren : on the morning before the battle, he had received a commission of brigadier-general ; and, being a fine young man, he dressed himself in a suit of fine cloaths, richly embroidered with gold, and even desired liberty to be placed in the wing with general Whellam, whose bravery he seemed to doubt : his request was granted, and soon after the action began : his

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courage was not attended with success; Whel-
 lam flew off with the left wing in an instant,
 and never halted till at Stirling Bridge, where,
 instead of being kindly received, the Scots
 governor, Sir James Campbell, threatened to
 fire upon him, if he did not return to the
 charge. Of all that wing, the intrepid For-
 far was the only man to stand upon the field :
 the richness of his cloaths fixed him as a butt
 for the enemy, who, from every quarter, ran
 upon him with frightful shouts and exclama-
 tions : he had a blunderbuss in one hand, and
 a long sword in the other ; he discharged the
 first into the thickest part of the enemy, and
 afterwards flung it in among them, and with
 the throw sprung forward, attacked them
 sword in hand, killing and wounding all who
 came near him : the conflict was so incessant,
 that the swords of the assailants clashed upon
 each other, as well as upon the weapon of the
 assailed : and the jostling of each other like
 the waves of the sea, was so frequent, that
 many balls, which might have entered his
 head or heart, only grazed on his temples, or
 slanted on his sides and his arms ; however, at
 last he was overpowered : his sword was brok-
 en at the handle : a bullet lodging between the
 tibia and patella of the right knee, brought
 him to the ground, with these words : Oh !
 my dear country ! Oh ! my dear country !
 The desperate strokes he received during the
 unequal conflict, were followed by more in-
 human cuts when he was down ; for, taking
 him to be the duke of Argyle, they acted with
 the greater barbarity : his hat and cloaths
 were cut in pieces : his head and body were,
 in

In a manner, one continued wound, and yet the vital parts were untouched ; so that when a party of thirty men came from Dumblain, about twelve that night, they found him in the midst of twenty dead carcases, and in a deluge of congealed gore : he was quite speechless, but still breathing, and seemed to smile when he saw the party appear ; and being carried to Stirling, he lingered for two days in the jaws of pain, till death delivered him from his torture. I should not have dwelt so long on this, if it was not that by the death of this gallant nobleman, the Scots peers were for ever deprived of one of their number, for the titles and honours of his family became extinct in his person, as he left no heir behind him, except the memory of the heroic death, by which he fell for the honour and glory of his country ; and, what is a little strange, in the list of the peers of Scotland, marked in the Annual Register, there is an exact catalogue of the peers attainted “ in the life-time “ of their respective fathers, of those who “ were beheaded, and of such as were killed in “ the field of battle, in arms against the government,” but not a word of the earl of Forfar, who died so gloriously in defence of his sovereign's cause.

I shall, sir, inform you of another piece of history, which, however unknown to you, can yet be ascertained upon the best and most undoubted evidence. The victory at Preston, in Lancashire, was owing to the Scots who were there ; for you will be informed, that the Cameronian regiment, which first was raised at the revolution, and acquired the greatest

glory afterward in Flanders and Brabant, was there; and at that time entirely consisted of Scotsmen. Major Lawfon marched at their head, in order to reconnoitre the position of the enemy, who gall'd his corps from behind the fences they had made: the major received a ball in the groin, which, to extract, put him to exquisite torture: he was carried to a house at a little distance, and here, without suffering his wound to be inspected, wrote a letter to general Carpenter, in which he laid down the situation of the enemy, and schemed out the plan to be pursued, which was, to draw as near as possible to the town, for that night, and next morning to set fire to it, unless it was surrendered; which advice was followed, and the unhappy Scots were delivered up as prisoners, almost without stroke of sword, merely from the circumstance of being connected with the English rebels, whose sentiments, in every council of war, always prevailed.

If you doubt the truth of this, it can be vouched from the best authority: I had it from a gentleman whose word I hold as sacred, and who never was upon Scots ground: he further informed me, that the major's letter was shewn to the illustrious John duke of Marlborough, from whom it received the highest approbation and applause.

The same alleviations of the rebellion in the year 1715, are applicable to that in the year 1745; at which period, the law thought that an English rebel was little better than a Scots insurgent: the law made no distinction between counsellor Morgan and sir John Wedderburn;

derburn; nor did the judges construe the guilt of Townly, of Fletcher, and of Blood, tho' born many score of miles nearer London than Scotland, to be less than that of those born in the extremity of North Britain. Did not the nobility of Scotland, except some infatuated and deluded people, act with the greatest unanimity, in defence of the king's cause? The duke of Douglas treated them with contempt, when they came to him; and Archibald, duke of Argyle, had no less than 5000 men in arms for the government. As I mention this great man, it will not be improper to draw a character of him, as he was uncle to lord Bute, and the person who first introduced his lordship to the prince of Wales, for the education of his son.

The high station of Lord Justice-general of Scotland, and Keeper of the Great Seal there, with a numerous train of titles and dignities, did not so much honour to him, as they derived lustre from him; and tho' he was adorned with all the crowns that glory itself could fix upon the head of a subject, yet these, and the confidence reposed in him by four successive sovereigns, did not so much enoble him as his own merit, and personal accomplishments, which rendered him a compleat judge both of men and things.

He could write a letter in six different languages: he understood botany, chemistry, and all the practice of physic; the ingenious and noble construction of watches, and clocks, nay, of all the machines depending upon mechanism; with all the branches of the mathematics; of natural and moral philosophy: he
had

had digested the laws of his country, and could speak upon them with a majestic and distinguishing sedateness, a charming and irresistible eloquence. He was a steadfast friend, no cruel enemy ; and, beside the scheme of raising the independent highland companies, and promoting the manufactories and fisheries thro' the king's dominions, by which thousands have had bread, and millions unborn may find entertainment, he, at a moderate computation, settled fifty-four thousand individuals in civil and military employments : a man, like *Caesar*, *chief in peace and war* : while at the school of Inverara, and university of Glasgow, he was no less remarkable for the brightness of his genius, than for a prodigious strength of body, and a surprising agility, which was so great, that he would stand upright to a wall, and retiring a little backward, would at one spring, strike with his heels the mark to which his head reached : nor was he afterward less admired in the senate, and in the privy council ; so that of him it may be said,

Actions his words, and words his actions grac'd.

I shall close the encomium of that great man, with the following lines, which, I assure you, have not been submitted to the perusal of Churchill the poet, to have the Scotticisms expung'd.

*He, tho' from heaven remote, to heaven did move,
With strength of mind, and trod th' abyss above ;
Well pleas'd was he to walk along the sphere
Of rolling stars, and travel with the year :*

With

*With more than human skill, he scal'd the height
Of Atlas, who supports the heav'nly weight ;
And now his condescending eyes survey
Mistaken mortals wand'ring from the way.*

I forgot to inform you, that this duke of Argyle was one of the commissioners for settling the articles of Union, and whose whole life was taken up in rendering the same as firm and compleat as possible.

The commissioners of both kingdoms were men of the greatest abilities, eminent for birth, and distinguished for capacity. While they lived, care was taken to stifle the voice of clamour, against the national deed. They would not wink at national reflections: being sensible of the mutual advantages that would arise to both kingdoms, from a cordial and hearty Union among the inhabitants: an Union of which the kings of England were ever desirous, tho' they sometimes used a wrong method to obtain it. Both Scots and English biographers are at a loss for encomiums on Dr. Fox, bishop of Durham, for projecting a marriage between king James IV. of Scotland, and lady Margaret Tudor, eldest daughter to king Henry VII. the prospect of an happy Union with those people, to whom he was, in some measure, indebted for his crown, determined him to favour the proposal: Henry VIII*. likewise desired it; Elisabeth, the darling of the English nation, named the king of

* Bernard Stewart, lord Aubigny, and brother to lord Darnley, attended king Henry from France, with some companies of Scots soldiers, who fought valiantly at Bosworth field. Scot's hist. of Scotland, p. 281.

Scots as her successor, even in her dying moments. Mary queen of Scots, when passing to the scaffold, declared it to be an event which she long had wished for : her son, king James, found no greater alloy to his satisfaction, but that it was not so compleat as he thought it might be : his son and his grandsons were of the same opinion. King William gloried in having laid the foundation for compleating it, and queen Anne rejoiced in having brought it to a period. She went to St. Paul's church to hear the thanksgiving sermon on the glorious event : the clergy, from the chair of truth, founded their approbation. The success of our arms in every war since that period, has eccho'd back the pales of applause. By acting as one people, and with unanimity, we have established a glory which enemies themselves must admire.

But was the object of that solemn transaction no more than that the Scots should fight the English battles, to gain for them the empire of the seas, and the extreme territory of North America? Or was the object of it, that a few gentlemen of education should settle in England, to go through the drudgery of teaching youth, a business which the generality of themselves have not patience to go thro'? No! " a communication of rights, " privileges and advantages was the end to be obtained?" The establishment of liberty, and of the protestant religion, was held invariably in the eye of that sole transaction.

The highland chiefs are taught no such creed as you would insinuate in Numb. XLVI. Despotic principles were never found in North Britain :

Britain : the people know that they are free, and, sensible of their liberty, they have exerted their arms as manfully, as if the Buckinghamshire militia, commanded by their late famous lieutenant-colonel had been employed : they are far from harbouring “ notions of pre-eminence, beyond that of an arbitrary “ POLE : ” many of them understand the law of nature and nations well, and perhaps could reason with you upon any political subject.

The people of South Britain are not “ trod “ upon by a man who despises popularity ; “ nor yet is their neck desired to bend to one “ who insolently contemns the universal sentiments of a free people.” You are not required to submit to the yoke of a Scotsman, “ who exults in his being allied to your natural rival, and claims it as his chief glory, “ that he is a kinsman of the Grand Monarch, “ and boasts in his arms [*Kings come of us, not “ we of kings*] that that family derives its “ origin from his, which, for so many centuries, pillaged and oppressed this nation ; “ a family in whose favour two most unnatural rebellions have been raised against our “ lawful sovereigns, and which were not suppressed, but with a deluge of English blood.”

I would not, sir, call things by their worst names, tho’ I must differ from you in every particular. Lord Bute exults in no alliance with your natural rival, nor does he boast the pompous motto you mention ; and so far from approving a rebellion, that the sensible men of Bute (about 500) mustered among the Argyleshire militia, in opposition to these re-

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bellions

bellions which were suppressed more by the blood of the Scots, than of the English ; for, upon inspecting the lists of the killed and wounded in every battle, you will find, that two-thirds of the loss fell upon the Scots in the king's service : besides, it is well known, that Duncan Forbes, esq; Lord President of the Court of Session, that defender of Christianity against infidels, and that ornament to the law, died of the voluntary fatigue he underwent in his sovereign's cause ; as did Mr. M'Laurin, that darling of the sciences, and the Archimedes of the age.

But who told you, that the chevalier de St. George, or the person who appeared in 1745, was of the Stewart family ? The English parliament never allowed the position; the English judges were of opinion, there could be no *hæres viventis*, and that since king James had deserted the throne, it was nothing to the kingdom, whether the birth of his son was real or fictitious : the British parliament have, in their resolutions of November 18th and 19th, 1745, declared " his claim to be " groundless," and which, " from the bottom of their hearts, they detest and abhor."

'Tis true the earl of Bute's name is Stewart, and his majesty king GEORGE is of the Stewart line ; but what then ? There is not a crowned head in Europe who is not, in some degree, descended from it ; and who knows, but one of your old, old, old grandmothers was of that illustrious race ? His lordship was bred up in the most generous sentiments, educated at Eton-school, and afterwards at Leyden, where he studied the law. His great grandfather,

ther, lieutenant-general Talmash, fell in an enterprize against Brest, anno 1695; two of his illustrious grandfathers, the marquis and earl of Argyle, were martyrs for liberty, and the protestant religion.

But pray who told you, that a Scotsman still directed the king's councils, or guided the rudder of the state? If any of the Scots peers, who have the honour to be of the king's privy council, speaks to the conviction of his own brother-counsellors, why should not truth prevail? Don't you and all others seek for the right of the thing? Does truth cease to be truth, because it proceeds from the mouth of a North Briton? It would be hard indeed to restrain the king from receiving benefit at a Scotsman's hand, or, in other words, from having a good opinion of any loving and dutiful subject.

But lord Bute has retired from all public business; he has no concern with the treasury; What do you mean? Do you want that he should fall a sacrifice to a popular fury of your own kindling? or do you want that he should die by the hands of an executioner?

The two things complained of in lord Bute's administration, are the peace, and the extending the duty upon cyder. As to the first, he had no more than one voice in the privy council, and only one vote in the house of lords, where an address was agreed on to his majesty, on the night the preliminaries were laid before them: In the course of the debate it was shewn, that the king of Prussia was not a natural, but an accidental ally; that the subsidy paid to him was larger than ever was

paid to any other potentate, and that tho' the treaty between the courts of London and Berlin had expired before the last negotiation was begun, yet the Prussian interest had been as much taken care of, as if the treaty still had existed; nor did lord Bute hesitate to declare, that, was he to die next day, he would desire no more honourable inscription upon his tomb, than that he was the man to advise his majesty to agree to the preliminary articles which now lay before them, and by which Prussia was enabled to dictate her own terms to the enemy.

And now, sir, I should be glad to know what other peace could have been expected, considering our situation at that time: a people groaning under a heavy load of taxes, and an immense national debt, has the question put to them, either to conclude a peace, and return a few places, which could not be peopled without draining the mother country of inhabitants, or else continue under the weight of your grievances, and carry on a destructive land war? But what if lord Bute's opinion of the peace was fully as erroneous as the sentiments of sir Robert Walpole, the duke of Newcastle, or any other minister in the matter wherein they were most over-reached: Is that any thing to the inhabitants of North Britain? Charity, which thinks no evil, prompts me to believe he spoke the dictates of a well-informed judgment, and as an honest man. In the House of Commons there were members from North Britain, who spoke on the side of the minority, (65 to 319) and I presume you will own, that one party was in the right.

But

But if the tranquillity of your native country will not prevail upon you to desist, pray have some regard for yourself; take care of Mr. Hogarth's pencil: for the same skilful hand that sketched out Mr. WILKES, while haranguing the court of Common Pleas, can likewise draw you in a proper attitude: there are foreigners among us who can have no great pleasure in being dinned with an inflammatory paper war; how ridiculous would the court of France appear, if nothing was to be heard at the Louvre but the burnings and desolations caused in Poland by the partisans of king Augustus, and of Stanislaus! Or have the people at Whitehall chapel no other business but to expatiate on the sufferings of king Charles I. and to tell that the window immediately behind the organ, was that out of which he went to the block! Let not Englishmen sport so much with their liberty, as to make it degenerate into petulance and presumption, nor let them set a bad example before the Scots their fellow-subjects, by criminal machinations of treason, rebellion, and raising a civil war; let not the laughter and ridicule, not to say the hatred, of all Europe be raised against the kingdom, now that it is in peace.

The matter is endless, if Scotsmen and Englishmen be not equally entitled to the smiles of their sovereign; if the English are to be treated as sons, but the Scots as step-sons, by the king, the common parent of us all, then let the Union be dissolved; let the forced bands that chain the former to the latter be broken; let things return to their former situation, when an alliance with Scotland was courted by every potentate

potentate, when her sons, glorying in their motto, *Nemo me impune lacesset*, were regaled in every clime, and dreaded by every enemy : let the old league between France and Scotland be renewed, and whenever England is at war with the former, let the latter march with displayed banners into the heart of a country whose inhabitants have proved to be of such a temper of mind that no favours could win upon them, nor oaths bind, to pursue their real, true, and substantial interest.

There are many things in your NORTH BRITONS highly censorious : your letter from the Chevalier at Rome to lord Bute, is little better than a forgery : your low and invidious animadversions on the king's speech argue a conduct which the British senate cannot fail to condemn by expelling the member (if such there be) who durst presume upon so gross an indignity : but indeed it would be an indignity to charge any member with so gross an indiscretion, which only had in its view the raising an insurrection, and sowing the seeds of distrust between a British sovereign and British subjects.

In the heat of the rebellion in 1745, which you speak of as if no Englishman was in it, a commentary was published on the king's speech of the 17th of October of that year ; however the commentator did not go so far as to assert that it was only the speech of the minister : his majesty's right to the throne was indeed contested, but then neither his judgment nor veracity were arraigned. To attack a speech which the king had delivered as his own, is a disrespect to dignity, it is an outrage which every king of England would have resented : it is
what

what king Henry VIII, would not have passed over with impunity, and is such as was never offered to any English, or indeed to any other monarch; nor did the law of this kingdom mean that the liberty of the subject was to extend so far as to throw dust upon the brightest gems of the crown.

One would be apt to think that the author of these NORTH BRITONS had been the son of a distiller, whose head had been vitiated with the fumes of distillation in his early days; that he had neglected his education, slighted his father, and had entailed upon himself his parents malediction, on account of his extravagance; that the squint-ey'd, hollow-nos'd, buck-teeth'd, snarl-looking wretch, of an aukward gait, with long fingers, turned-up nails, and generally nauseous to the fair sex, had yet the chance to marry a lady with 50,000 l. fortune, which he squandered away, parted from her, and reduced her to beggary, till taken in by her own mother. Who knows but he was disappointed in a government among the Leeward Islands, and that, because the king would not grant it to him for seven years, his resentment against the administration was raised to such a degree, that he not only reflected on the minister at the helm but upon a country to which he was indebted for the kindest usage, that any man could receive for the time he was in it: who knows but he pays no tradesman till a judgment be obtained against him.

Was the dispute restrained to Mr. Hogarth and Mr. WILKES, the same would only amuse and entertain; for while the latter lashed with his pen, the former could expose by his pencil,

pencil, and with a single touch would more than compensate for a thousand strokes of the other. But now the matter is more serious, the very liberty of the press is perverted, endeavours are used for insensibly raising a contemptible idea of the prince in the minds of his subjects, for raising in his heart a contempt and a distrust of them, and for breaking a national compact, and involving in a civil war. Could France have foreseen that this would have been the case I dare say the peace had not been postponed; since by our animosities a ruin would be accomplished that the arms of the enemy could never bring upon us.

To conclude, I look upon every individual in the king's dominions to be under the protection of the laws, and to be entitled to the favour and smiles of his sovereign provided he deserves it; a Creolian has not less a title to be lord mayor of the city of London, than a native of Thames-street or Cornhill; and, notwithstanding the earl T——, who is of a Norman race, may countenance Mr. W——, when arraigned before a court of justice, tho' hand-bills may be dispersed among the mob, to enflame them while the matter is depending, yet I must be of opinion that every national reflection ought to be let alone, as foolish in itself, mischievous in its nature, hurtful in its consequences, and in reality a species of deep premeditated and concerted treason.

F I N I S

E R R A T A.

Page 7, for 473, read 437. p. 14, line 6. after remains, r. of his own. p. 26, l. 31. for H——t, r. Hereford. p. 37, l. 35, for Whellam, read Whetham.



